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LOOMIS—California Water Birds No. V.—Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci. 3rd Ser. Zool. Vol. II, No. 5, pp. 349-363. Issued Dec. 24, 1900.

Mr. Loomis's fifth paper presents the "results of a study of the water birds off Monterey from May 1 to June 12, 1897." Like his previous papers this one is carefully composed and the various topics are methodically arranged under suggestive headings. Under "General Observations" are enumerated the 35 species of water-birds observed, among which we note *Larus glaucus*. The specimen, on which this record is based, does not show the characters of *L. barrovianus*, which is the form we would expect to find on this coast. We also note that our only record of *Uria lomvia arra* for California (COOPER, Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci., V. p. 414) is shown to have been based on an immature specimen of the ordinary *Uria troile californica*. Mr. Loomis sees no obvious reasons for rejecting the old record of *Creagrus furcatus* off Monterey merely on account of the remoteness of the nesting ground. As in his last paper the author does not recognize trinomial. The brief remarks on the "Cause of Return Migration" appear to be mainly in the nature of emphasis on ideas already stated in his former papers.—J. G.



PROFESSOR COLLETT ON THE MORPHOLOGY OF THE CRANIUM AND THE AURICULAR OPENINGS IN THE NORTH-EUROPEAN SPECIES OF THE FAMILY STRIGIDÆ.

By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D., Reprint from *Journ. Morph.*, Vol. XVII, No. 1, pp. 119-176; plates XV to XX, and numerous text figures.

This paper is a "full and complete English translation" of Prof. Robert Collett's memoir entitled *Craniets og Oreaabningernes Bygning hos de nordeuropæiske Arter af Familien Strigidae*, with footnotes and some general considerations by Dr. Shufeldt. Prof. Collett, in the first part of his work, divides the owls of northern Europe into six groups, "based upon the morphology of the cranium and upon the structure of the external ear-openings and their dermal appendages." Ten species are considered and all belong to the subfamily *Buboninae* ("the other subfamily, which is represented by *Strix flammea* does not occur in Scandinavia)."

The second part consists of careful descriptions of the morphology of the crania and ear openings of the ten species. In concluding the paper, Dr. Shufeldt gives "Opinions upon the Position of the Strigidae in the System," presenting the views of Huxley, Newton, Max Fuerbringer, Hans Gadow, and H. L. Clark. He states his own opinion as follows: "Regarding the owls as a whole, they may be considered as forming a group of nocturnal birds of markedly raptorial habits. Some of the species, however, are largely diurnal in their ways. They are not especially related to the

Accipitres, but are, on the other hand, remotely allied with the *Caprimulgi*. What we now know of the structure of such forms as *Steganotis* and *Podargus* sufficiently indicates this much." The translation is well presented, and is illustrated by six lithographic plates (by Prof. Collett) and seven text figures, redrawn by Dr. Shufeldt, from plates by Prof. Collett.—W. K. F.



THE WILSON BULLETIN No. 33: A Summer Reconnaissance in the West, by Lynds Jones and W. L. Dawson, Oberlin, Ohio, covering observations during a 7000 mile trip over fourteen states, with notes and observations made on the fly is a very readable paper if the observations are not taken too seriously. Mr. Jones says in his introductory remarks, "The only new feature introduced is the keeping of horizons for certain places or certain lengths of time aboard train or steamer, in the effort to more clearly illustrate what one might hope to find in retraversing this region."

This idea of dividing the trip into bird horizons when speeding through the country on a railway flyer is commendable, but when the observations are confined to a small locality like the Pacific slope of Los Angeles Co., they partake of the nature of a local list and it is with such lists that we must make our comparison in order to determine if the observations are accurate or of a more or less guesswork nature. To show how worthless such a list as that published by Mr. Jones might be to a stranger in the land, I will mention a few inaccuracies or cases of mistaken identification. We will overlook his discovery of magpies in the vicinity of San Bernardino for that was made from the train and of course subject always to mental reservation; but when he enters the Pacific slope of Los Angeles County, the home of three-fourths of the members of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club; a section more carefully and continuously observed during the past ten years than any other part of California, and then publishes a list of birds observed which he commends for its accuracy, it is time to turn on the X ray. Both the California and the Pasadena Thrasher are noted although only one occurs here. Samuel's Song Sparrow has not been taken in the section mentioned.

The Black-tailed Gnatcatcher although it occurs plentifully thirty miles east and half that distance west has not been taken here, in spite of the fact that for years all our resident members have been looking keenly for it. Only one specimen of The Prairie Falcon has been taken in ten years, although it occurs east and west of us. The Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow and Calliope Hummingbird are rare stragglers in the valley during the migration but at the time Mr. Jones visited this vi-

cinity, July, none have ever been seen, they having retired to the ranges beyond that in which Mt. Lowe is situated.

I believe but very few California Cuckoos have been seen during the past ten years. During the same period The Western Winter Wren has been seen but twice and then in mid-winter. It is unnecessary to call attention to other identifications almost as glaring, for enough has been shown to illustrate the danger of publishing local lists without years of experience gained in the locality itself. This especially applies to the mountainous regions of the West where our California ornithologist would not dare to make a record without having evidence not only to satisfy himself but also that which would satisfy his associates in the club as well. In other words no identification is accepted without the specimen to back it, except in species that differ so as to allow no chance of error and the observer known to be familiar with it.

The value of local lists cannot be disputed but they should be made up from observations and facts indisputable, especially when such lists are given color by the standing of the author.—F. S. P.



APPENDIX TO COOK'S "BIRDS OF COLORADO." The "Birds of Colorado" in bulletin form by W. W. Cooke, has just been strengthened by a second appendix, giving us a total number of species to the credit of the state of 387, of which 243 are known to breed. Prof. Cooke has put much time, travel and expense into this work and has threshed into reliable form the multitude of notes and publications bearing on this subject which he could bring to light. There yet remain large tracts of country within the state which have produced no notes, and additions will be made to the list from year to year.

Mr. Cooke gives Colorado a list greater than any other State in the Union, excepting Nebraska, whose list counts up 400. The list is subdivided in many interesting ways, such as "birds breeding in the mountains but not on the plains," "birds of the plains," "residents the year round" and "winter visitants only." The list of stragglers of which but one record is known number sixty-seven, among them mention being made of such rarities for this section as three varieties of surf ducks, a Roseate Spoonbill and the Connecticut and Canadian Warblers.

Our quail (introduced) promise future variations from the natural order of distribution. The farming country from Denver to Fort Collins is much infested with quail, both from the East and Texas. The California partridge has been introduced in Mesa County on the western slope and has thriven wonderfully, while the Scaled Partridge is slowly spreading over a large area in the southeastern part of the state. Our friend, R. C. McGregor, comes in on the list by a substantial addition of a Ridgeway's Junco, while I regret to observe that Mr. Cooke has brought to notice all my old papers in amateur journals, which I had considered safely buried.—F. M. DILLE.

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